AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (canceled)

2 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising:

a memory for storing image data;

a designator for designating the image size; and

a compression system which compress the image data by a compression method corresponding to the image size designated with the designator and sends the compressed image data to the memory,

wherein said compression system includes a first compression method which allows image editing in a compressed state and a second compression method which does not allow image editing in a compressed state.

3 (original). An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first compression method is fixed-length compression method and said second compression method is variable-length compression method.

4 (original). An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said compression system selects a compression method for accomplishing a second compression method after a first compression method when a designated image size is larger than a specific size, and selects only a first compression method when a designated image size is smaller than the specific size.

5 (Currently amended). An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said image data are image data of four colors yellow, magenta, cyan, and black, and both compression and storage to memory are executed in parallel for each color.

6 (Currently amended). An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, further comprising:

an expansion system which expand the image data stored in the memory by a expansion method corresponding to the compression method which image size designated with the ~~designating means~~ designator and sends the compressed image data to the memory.

7 (canceled).

8 (Currently amended). ~~An apparatus according to claim 7,~~ An image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing image data;

a designator for designating the image size;

a compression system which includes a first compression method for first compressing the image data and a second compression method for second compressing the image data compressed by the first compression method; and

a controller which controls practice of the second compression method corresponding to the image size designated with the designator

wherein said first compression method is fixed-length compression method and said second compression method is variable-length compression method.

9 (Currently amended). An apparatus according to claim [[7]] 8, further comprising:

a plural image forming unit which forms an image based on the image data stored in the memory.

10 (original). An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said memory stores the image data for delaying a output timing of the image data to the plural image forming unit.

11 (Currently amended). An apparatus according to claim [[7]] 8, further comprising:

a paper supply unit which supplies sheet for image forming.

12 (original). An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said controller distinguish whether the paper supply unit will be able to supply a sheet according to the image size in a lengthwise direction and horizontal direction.

13 (canceled).

14 (Currently amended). ~~A method according to claim 13,~~ A method to image processing apparatus having a memory for storing image data, the method comprising the steps of:

designating the image size of the image data;

compressing the image data based on the designation of the designating step; and

storing the image data to the memory,

wherein said compressing step includes a first compression method for first compressing the image data and a second compression method for second compressing the image data compressed by the first compression method.

15 (Currently amended). A method according to claim [[13]] 14, wherein said compressing step includes fixed-length compression method and variable-length compression method.